

News Release



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Six State Parks Receive \$2.3 million in Proposition 40 Grants to Preserve History and Culture

SACRAMENTO – The California Cultural and Historical Endowment on Thursday approved \$2.3 million in grants for projects in state parks that will help preserve artifacts, restore a locomotive and a historic house, develop exhibits for a planned underground mine tour, and stabilize eight old west buildings.

The grants were awarded to the non-profit organizations whose purpose is to manage volunteers and seek funds for projects that are not able to be covered within the California State Parks normal operating budget. The grants cover half of project costs, with foundations required to come up with the other half in donations or other fundraising. Now the nonprofits can begin to spend their matching funds.

“I commend our cooperating associations and foundations for their commitment and dedication to California’s parks,” said Director Ruth Coleman of California State Parks. “I also commend the voters of California for making the bond funds available. Without them, we would not be able to preserve these historic and cultural facilities that keep California’s history alive.”

Last week’s approval follows other “Round Two Project Grants” approved by the endowment earlier this year. Planning Grants were approved for the following: Navaro River Redwoods - \$280,000, Olompali State Historic Park - \$100,800, John Marsh Home - \$200,000. Capital projects were approved for the Cosmopolitan Hotel at the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park - \$1,808,120.

To learn more about each park, see below and visit <http://www.parks.ca.gov/> and click “Find A Park” in the upper left corner of your screen. For more about the grant, visit <http://www.library.ca.gov/CCHE/Round2.cfm> All approvals are pending a grant agreement.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park – Borrego Springs, San Diego County - \$75,789

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the largest state park in California, houses the Begole Archeological Research Center. The center has a working laboratory for archeologists and volunteers as well as a collection room where artifacts are safely stored or curated. The grant will provide automated storage units to house the entire park district’s collection of artifacts and documents in one area. The artifacts in the center include pottery, stone implements and baskets. The center is open to the public by appointment only.

To learn more, visit or contact Sue Wade Associate State Archeologist (760) 767-5790 or Senior Environmental Scientist Jim Dice (760) 767-3074

(more)

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Bodie State Historic Park - Bridgeport, Mono County - \$275,000

The grant will help stabilize eight of 13 endangered buildings in the park. The authentic mining town was established after the discovery of gold in 1877. It features 170 buildings that are maintained in a state of "arrested decay," complete with mine and mill buildings, saloons and a gas station, church, general store, fire station, and cemetery, making it the largest intact ghost town in the Western United States. The buildings being stabilized are a hotel, the ice house, the general store, a barber shop, a home, a stable and two assay offices where gold was weighed. The grant award recipient is Sierra State Parks Foundation. Matching funds will come from the Save America's Treasures Grant Program and fundraising.

To learn more contact Karl Knapp, Maintenance Chief of the Sierra District (530) 525-9525 or Susan Fitzgerald Reichert, Executive Director, Sierra State Parks Foundation (530) 525-9460

Railtown 1897 State Historic Park - Jamestown, Tuolumne County - \$300,000

Railtown 1897 is often called "The Movie Railroad," as it has been a popular filming location since 1919. Grant funds will be used to restore "Movie Star," also known as "Sierra Railway No. 3." The engine has been called "the most widely seen locomotive in the world." It has been seen in classic movies such as "The Virginian," "High Noon," and Clint Eastwood's "Unforgiven," as well as television shows such as "Death Valley Days" with Ronald Regan, "Little House on the Prairie," and "Petticoat Junction." The grant is being awarded to the California State Railroad Museum Foundation which has launched a fundraising campaign to come up with matching funds. To learn more, visit <http://www.csrmf.org/railtown/> or contact Kathy Daigle, Associate Director, California State Railroad Museum Foundation at (916) 445-0945 Paul Hammond, State Park Interpreter III at (916) 445-7387

Empire Mine State Historic Park - Grass Valley, Nevada County - \$1,286,220

Empire mine is the site of the oldest, largest, deepest, longest and richest gold mines in California. In existence for 106 years, the mine produced 5.6 million ounces of gold before it closed in 1956 when it became a state park. The park is developing a horizontal tunnel 100 feet below ground into which visitors will be able to experience a bit of what the working miners felt. The new tunnel, or adit, will intersect with the historic main shaft where miners entered the mine. The grant, which is being given to the Empire Mine Park Association, allows for the construction and installation of underground exhibits.

To learn more contact Bill Lindemann, Interpretive Specialist, Sierra District at (530) 525-3341

Fort Ross State Historic Park - Jenner, Sonoma County - \$85,000

The original Russian-built Rotchev House is meant as a showpiece of Russia's contributions to early California history. The grant funds will help restore the study and saloon. The rooms will look the way they did in 1841 when the last Fort Ross manager Alexander Rotchev lived there. It is the only structure in the fort that still retains original Russian architecture. The house was home to several families before it became a hotel, then on the verge of ruin in 1906, it was stripped to its bare walls and sold to the state to become a state park. Since then, as funds were made available, State Parks resources have been invested into restoring the outside. The inside served as a museum for a time in the late 1960, until a fire in 1971 destroyed many artifacts.

To learn more, visit <http://www.fortrossinterpretive.org/> or contact, Heidi Horvitz, Supervising State Park Ranger (707) 847-3286 or Lyn Kalani, Fort Ross Interpretive Association (707) 847-3437

El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park - \$322,685

Built by the Spanish in 1782, the military fortress is the site of the oldest building in Santa Barbara and second oldest in California. The grant and matching funds will be used to renovate a resource center to house curatorial and research collections and make them accessible to the public. The project includes restoring the original exterior of the 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival Building: Remodeling the interior, restoring original interior woodwork, complete seismic retrofitting, install systems for temperature and humidity control, and become more accessible for the disabled. Disabled parking, access ramps and restrooms will be installed.

To learn more, contact Sally Fohse, Associate Director of Business Affairs with the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation at (805) 966-1279.

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